

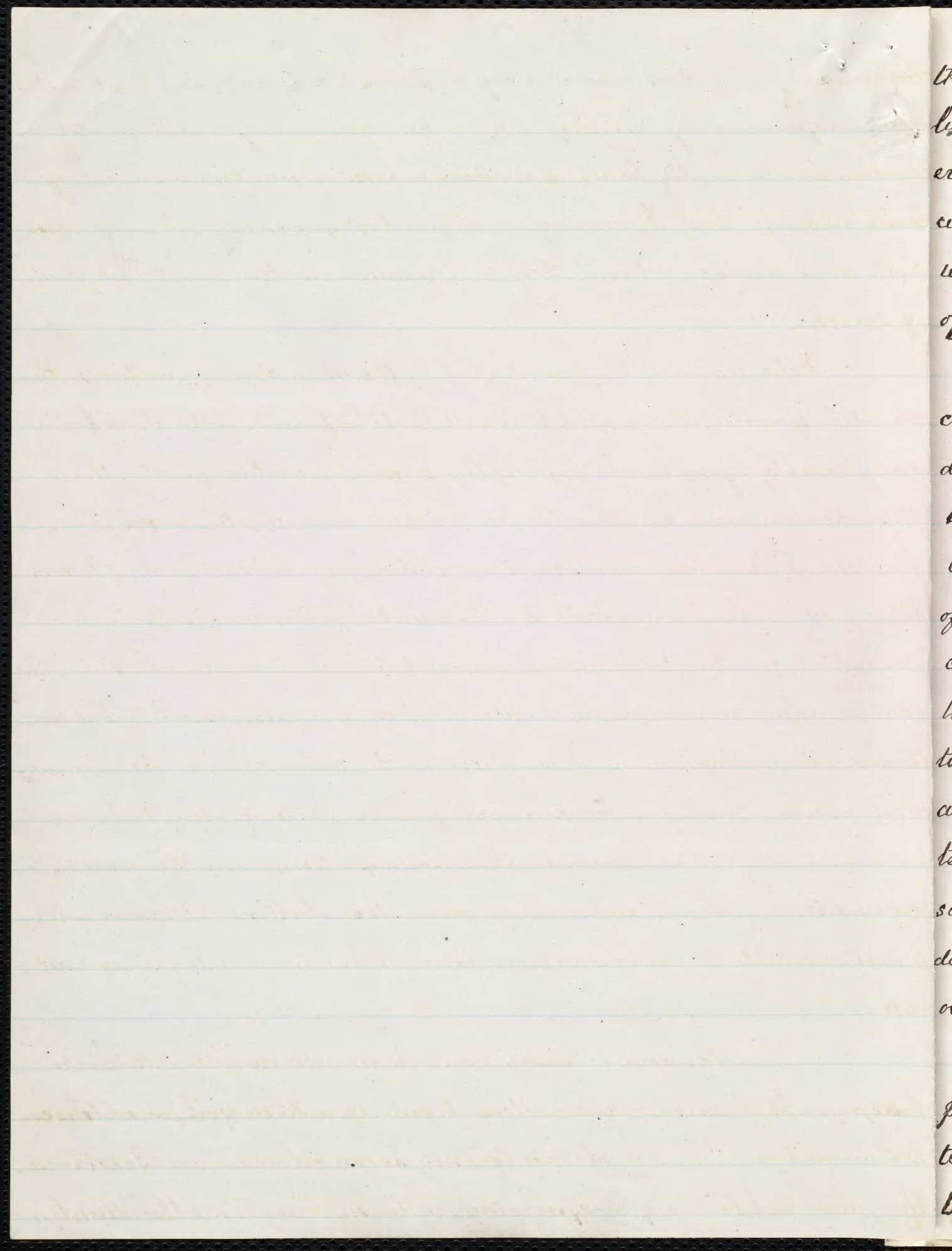
Boston, Nov. 6, 1837

Copy

Esteemed Friend:

There are many of my countrymen, who regard me as a rash disturber of the peace of society, scarcely fit to be tolerated upon my native soil; and though they have not said of me what was charged against my Master, namely, that "he hath a devil," yet they do not scruple to give me the apostolic character of being "a seditious and pestilent fellow." How does it happen, then, that you, a stranger to me personally, a "foreigner" on the other side of the Atlantic, are disposed to cherish a good opinion of me, to approve my labors, and even to aid me in my "incendiary" and "fanatical" purposes by a generous donation? Ought not my own countrymen to know me better than a resident in England? Their testimony is very strong against me; it is unequivocal; it goes to impeach my sanity, if not to injure my moral character. Ah! they are not disinterested witnesses. I have not only accused them of being hostile to the rights of man, and, in ranking immortal souls among cattle and creeping things, of having exalted themselves above all that is called God, but I have sustained the dreadful accusation by plenary evidence: hence their hatred of me. The act of violence is in their hand, and they know it; their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; and whosoever among them that departeth from evil, maketh himself a prey; for truth has fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

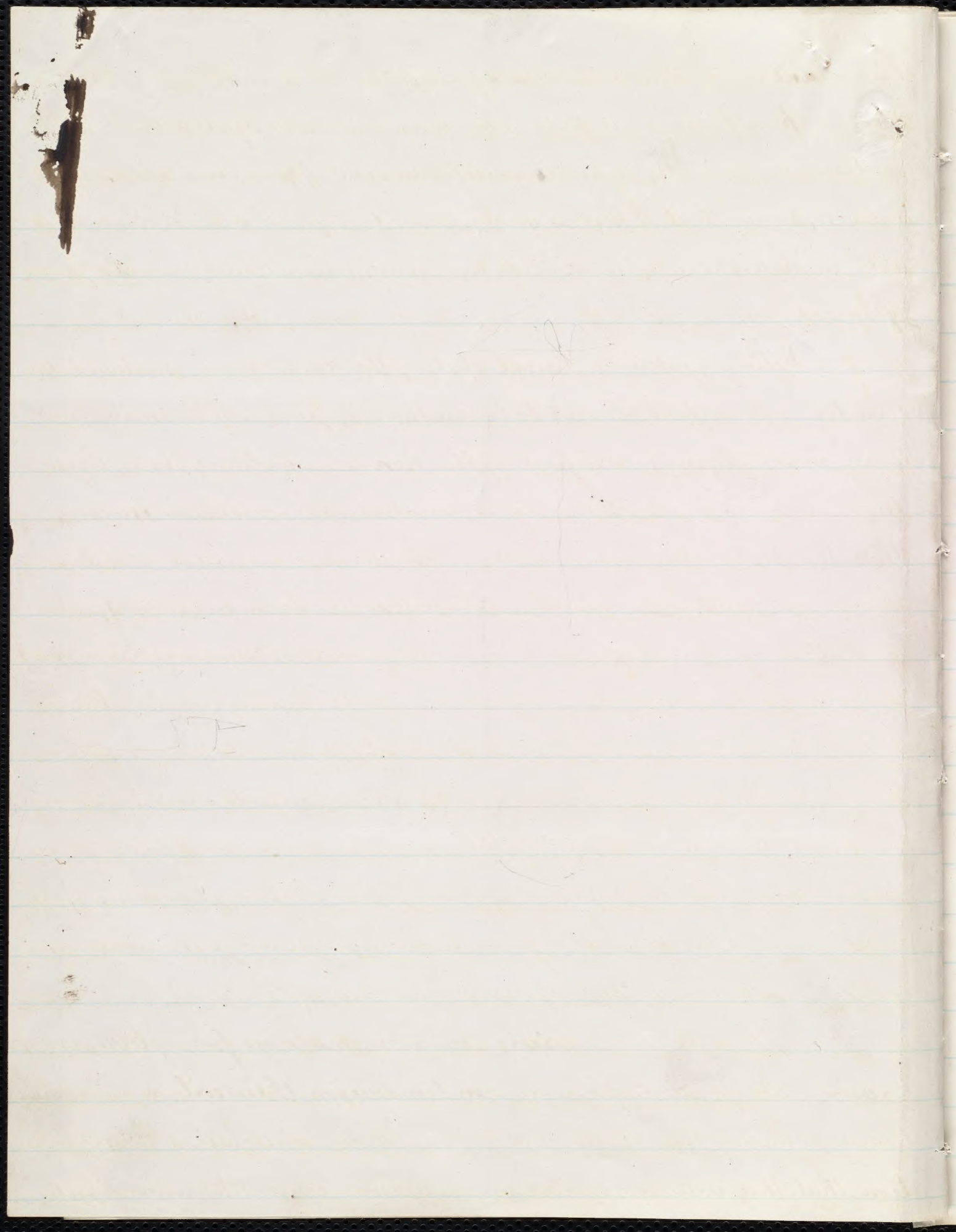
My beloved and invaluable coadjutor, Angelina E. Grimké, has promptly conveyed to me the five guineas which you were pleased to transmit in the letter she has recently received from you. I receive the gift as a token of your sympathy for the suffering and the dumb in



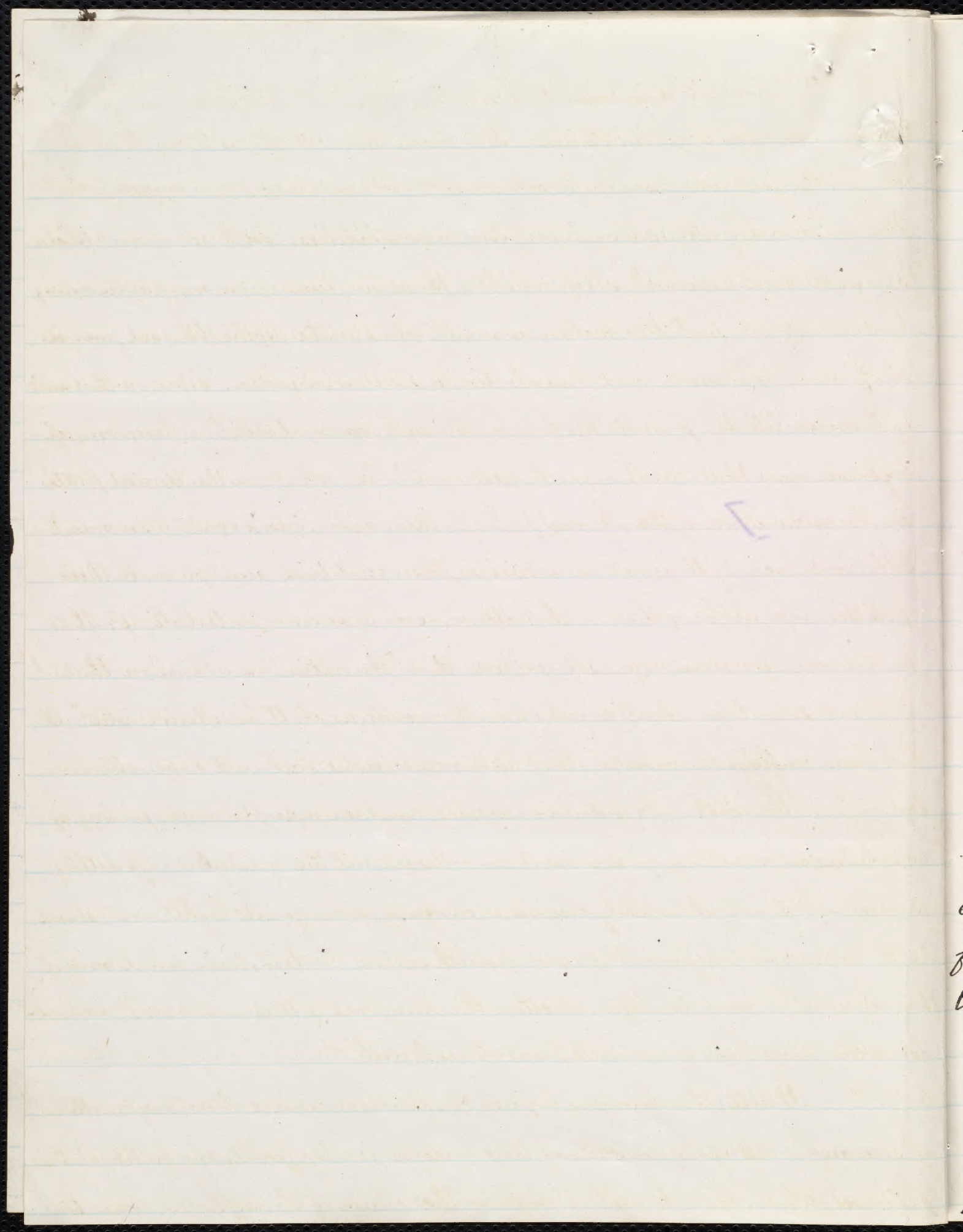
this recalcant land, whose cause it is my happiness to advocate, and for whose deliverance from bondage all that I have and am is pledged, without any reservation whatever. My heart is grateful in view of your kindness, and especially to know that I possess your esteem; but you shall not be burdened with mere words in return. Deep and genuine emotion has no "set phrase of speech."

With regard to the present state of the anti-slavery question in this country, you will be pleased to learn that the friends of the slave are daily multiplying in all parts of the non-slaveholding States; that there are now not less than twelve hundred anti-societies in existence; that the spirit of lawless violence is in a great measure subdued, not by the arm of law, but by the power of truth and the victorious endurance of suffering innocence; that, in New-England, all organized opposition to our cause has vanished; that our efforts are unceasing to gain a complete mastery over the public sentiment of the nation; and that in Massachusetts, where, only two years since, abolition was a mere foot-ball among all political parties to show their contempt and dexterity in kicking it, these same parties are now "bowing and scraping" to us, with cap-in-hand, at every new election, knowing as they do that we hold the balance of power in our hands, and can award victory or defeat according to their espousal of the cause of liberty.

Upon the slave holding States, we make no perceptible impression. No opponent of slavery can tread upon their soil, as an abolitionist, without the risk of martyrdom. I have relinquished the expectation, that they will ever, by mere moral suasion, consent to emancipate

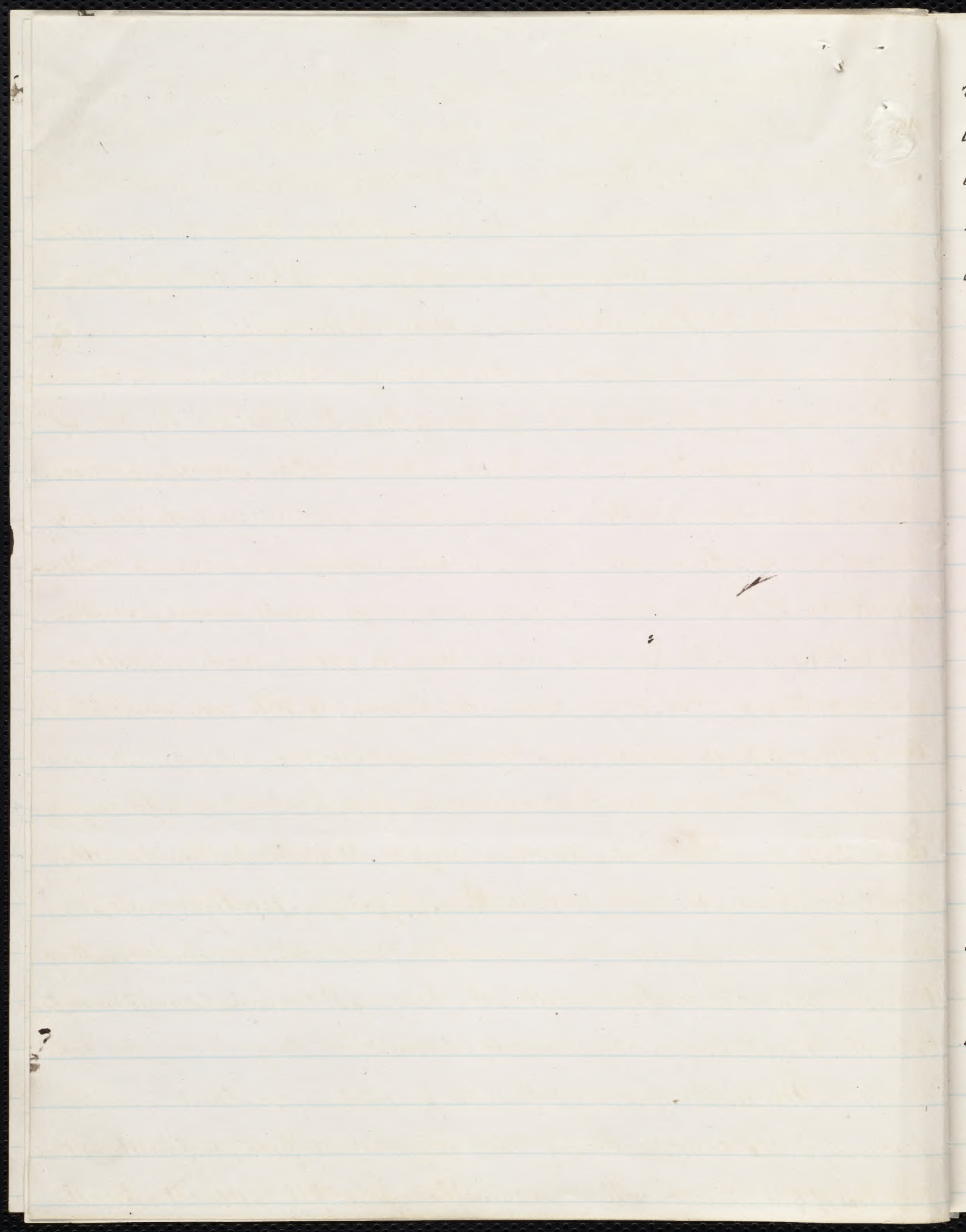


their victims. I believe that nothing but the exterminating judgments of Heaven can shatter the chain of the slave, and destroy the power of his oppressor. The wildest animals may be tamed, in the course of time; but tyrants, as all history shows, must be destroyed. I am clear, moreover, in the conviction, that, though astonishing changes have taken place in favor of emancipation among the people of the nominally free States within the last five years, the fate of this nation is, nevertheless, sealed. Repentance, if it come at all, will come too late. Our sins have gone up over our heads, and our iniquities unto the clouds, and a just God means to dash us in pieces as a potter's vessel is broken. [7] As a nation, our pride is intolerable, our infatuation amazing. "All men," says the great moral poet, "think all men mortal but themselves":—and we republicans, we Christians, we who have so bravely fought for liberty, find no difficulty in persuading ourselves that we are immortal! All other people, of whatever language, tribe, country or clime, may perish; but we can never waste nor decay. Time shall not be able to erase a single stripe, or obscure a single star, upon our banner. We are a vain people, and our love of adulation is excessive. We imagine, and are constantly taught to believe, that our flight, like a strong angel's, is onward and upward, without pause, without weariness; that though an earthquake should shake all Europe, and engulf empires, it could not disturb a platter in our shelves; and that the sun of our freedom shall be coeternal with the orb of day. Like ancient Edom, our habitation is high; we have exalted ourselves as an eagle, and set our nest among the stars; and we are saying in the pride of our hearts, "Who shall bring us down to the ground?"



But, it is ~~in vain~~ that we boast of our Constitution, our glorious Union, our republican institutions. It is worse than idle for us to say, that we are "in the full tide of successful experiment." The experiment has wofully failed. We are madly attempting to perform impossibilities. Talk we of our national strength and prowess? As if, were it a thousand times more mighty than it is, God could not sink this nation as a mill-stone in the depths of the sea, and it shall never be missed - and thus vindicate his eternal justice, advance the cause of human liberty, promote his fear in the earth, and establish a kingdom of righteousness that shall never be destroyed! For what are the United States in the estimation of the Almighty? Do their dimensions excite his wonder? Is he impressed by their arts and sciences, their enterprise and opulence, their politics and religion, their high pretensions and solemn protestations? It is as true and as certain now, as it ever was, that "the nation and kingdom that will not serve him shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." It has been confidently asserted, that if our experiment fail, all hope will be ~~be~~ taken from the earth. As if down-trodden, benighted man, wherever pining in chains, or grovelling in degradation, - despite all the mutations of earthly empires, - will not ultimately rise up in majesty, emerge into light, and stand forth "redeemed, regenerated and disenthralled"! As if, come what may of this republic, it were doubtful whether the kingdoms of this world will ever become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ!

While, therefore, my hope of the peaceful and voluntary overthrow of slavery in the Southern states of this nation is very feeble, my faith in the promises of God, that he will maintain the cause of the afflicted and the

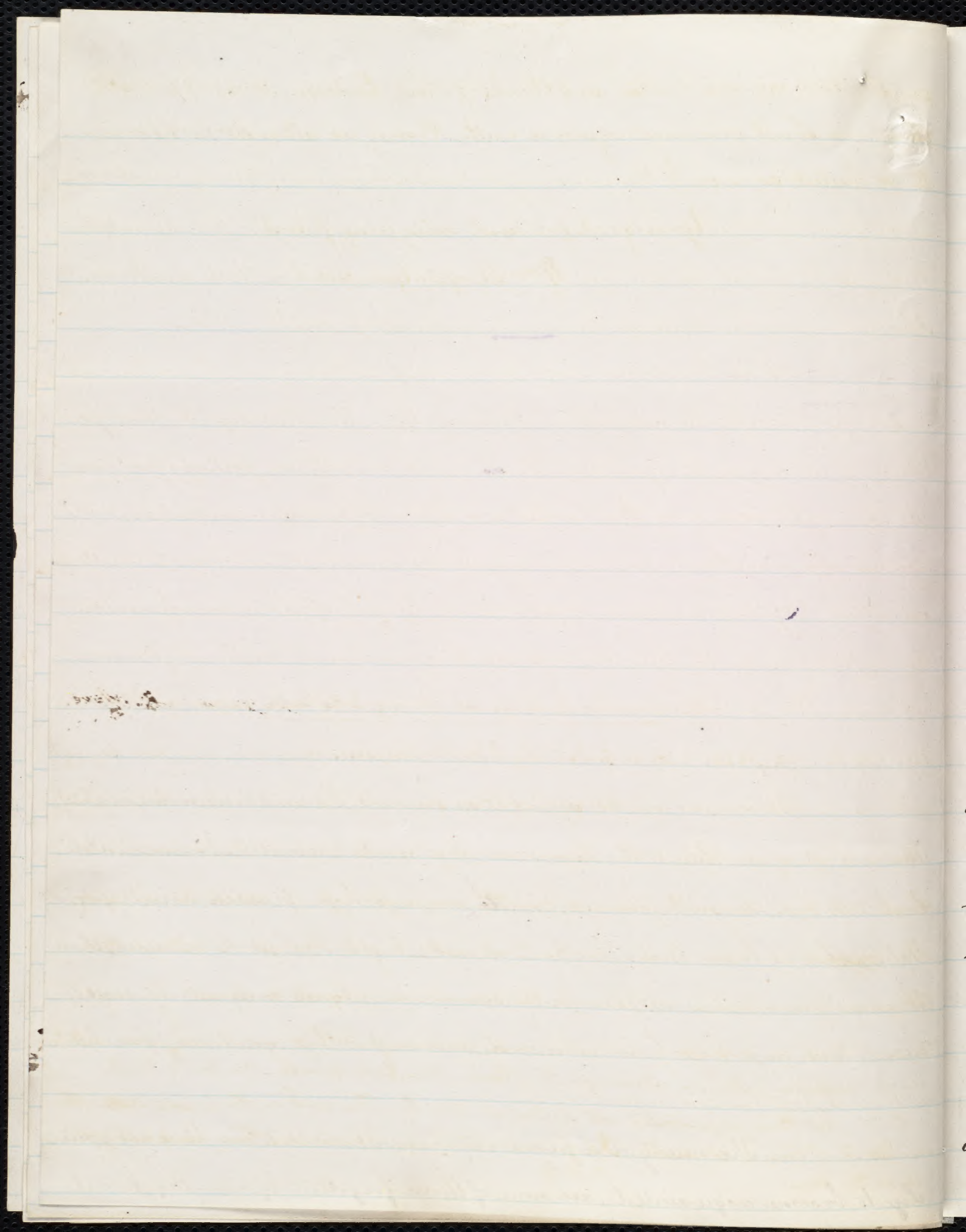


right of the poor, and that he will deliver the oppressed out of the hand of the spoiler, is unfaltering, invincible. And while it is my earnest prayer, that the judgments of Heaven may be averted from us, by timely repentance—still, if our destruction is to come, I am ready to say, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever. To him that overthrew Pharaoh and his hosts; for his mercy endureth forever!"

As in England, so in this Country—the women have done and are doing more for the extirpation of slavery than the other sex. In their petitions to Congress, they outnumbered us at least three, perhaps five to one. At the recent session of that body, a million of names were sent in, in the course of a month, remonstrating against the annexation of Texas to the United States. Of that immense number, a very large proportion were females. Our gifted friends, the Grimké's, are exerting an almost angelic influence wherever they go. Their public lectures are thronged by both sexes, and their triumph over prejudice and error has been most signal.

It is now more than eight years since I entered upon this mighty work. The more I labor, the less weary I grow. Rely upon it, American abolitionists will never give up the conflict, through fatigue, pusillanimity, or apathy. Come what may, they can no more be divorced from the cause, than they can give up their allegiance to God. Some of them may—nay, some of them have, in a trying hour, turned recreant; but the great body fear God, and will keep his commandments.

The many dear friends in England, with whom it was my privilege to become acquainted, are none of them forgotten by me. My heart



swells, and my eyes moisten as I think of their kindness. It is not probable that we shall ever meet again on earth - O may we all meet in heaven, to be parted no more!

Your grateful and admiring friend,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Elizabeth Pease,
Tectham, Darlington,
England.

Re-addressed to
Guildhall Coffee House,
London.

Letter from Sarah M. Grimke, to Elizabeth Pease, endorsed on the above.

4th Mo. 9th 1838. - Dear Sister, thy letter to Angelina was received a few days ago with much pleasure and will be replied to as soon as time and circumstances admit. The only copy of our letter to the Queen was sent under cover to thee - some time last 11th Mo. we will forward another ^{copy} soon and hope it reach thee in safety. We expect to leave Boston on the 23rd inst. - to go to Philad. to attend the Woman's Convention - our plans for the summer are not quite matured. We regret much that our packages have cost so much, and are glad thee mentioned ^{it} as we will be more careful in future. - Mine, for the Slave - Sarah M. Grimke - Our love to H, C, B. -

P. S. Art thou acquainted with Richard M. Beverly, - His work on the present state of the visible Ch. of Chr, is admirable. I hope one or two pams. I have sent him have not got into the mail. - S. M. G.

